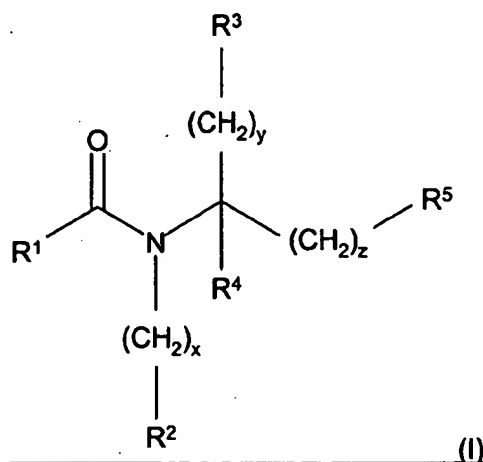


Claims

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled).

2. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



wherein:

~~A compound according to claim 1 wherein~~

R¹ is selected from:

- a) phenyl, which is optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, CF₃, halo, CN, NR⁷R⁸, SO₂R⁶ and OC₁-C₆ alkyl, and
- b) Aromatic Heterocycle, wherein said Aromatic Heterocycle is selected from pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, quinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, isoxazolyl and pyrazolyl, each aromatic heterocycle optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, SR⁶, SO₂R⁶, NH₂, CF₃, halo, OH, OC₁-C₆ alkyl, NR⁷R⁸ wherein R⁸ may be optionally substituted by NH₂, phenyl or Heterocycle, and OPh wherein Ph may be optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from halo and C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R² is selected from:

- a) phenyl, which is optionally substituted by methyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, CF₃ or SO₂CH₃ ~~C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo, OC₁-C₆ alkyl, OCF₃, NR⁷R⁸, CF₃ or SO₂R⁶,~~

- b) ~~OPh, which is optionally substituted by C₁-C₆ alkyl or halo,~~
c) ~~cyclopropyl or 1- or 2-indanyl,~~
d) pyrazolyl, which is optionally substituted by methyl R⁶, and
e) ~~R⁶,~~
f) ~~C(O)N(CH₃)₂, and~~
g) ~~a 5-6 membered saturated ring containing 1 nitrogen atom, said ring being~~
~~substituted by C(O)R⁶,~~
R³ is selected from:
- a) phenyl, said phenyl being optionally fused to Heterocycle and said phenyl or
said fused phenyl being optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each
independently selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo, CN and OC₁-C₆ alkyl,
b) R⁶,
c) cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl, which is optionally
substituted by C₁-C₆ alkyl; and
d) Aromatic Heterocycle, wherein said Aromatic Heterocycle may be defined as
a 5-6 membered aromatic heterocycle containing 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms, said
ring optionally fused with a phenyl or a 3-8 membered cycloalkyl group.
- R⁴ is H;
R⁵ is selected from: CONH₂, ~~CONHR⁶, CONR⁶R⁶ and R⁶,~~
R⁶ is methyl;
R⁷ is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl;
R⁸ is C₁-C₆ alkyl;

or NR⁷R⁸ forms a monocyclic saturated ring system containing between 3 and 7
ring atoms;

x is 1;

y is 0; and

z is 0 or 1

wherein:

Aromatic Heterocycle may be defined as a 5-6 membered aromatic heterocycle
containing 1-4 heteroatoms each independently selected from N, O and S, said ring
optionally fused with a phenyl or a 3-8 membered cycloalkyl group;

Heterocycle is a 5-8 membered saturated or partially saturated ring containing 1-3 heteroatoms each independently selected from N, O and S, said ring optionally fused with phenyl;

a tautomer thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or polymorph of said compound or tautomer.

3.

(original) A compound according to claim 2 wherein R¹ is selected from:

- a) phenyl, which is optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, CF₃, halo, CN, NR⁷R⁸, SO₂R⁶ and OC₁-C₆ alkyl, and
- b) Aromatic Heterocycle, wherein said Aromatic Heterocycle is selected from:
 - i) pyridyl, which is optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, SO₂R⁶, NH₂, CF₃, CN, halo, OH, OC₁-C₆ alkyl, NR⁷R⁸ wherein R⁸ may be optionally substituted by NH₂, phenyl or Heterocycle, and OPh wherein Ph may be optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from halo and C₁-C₆ alkyl;
 - ii) pyrimidinyl, which is optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, SO₂R⁶, NH₂, CF₃, CN, halo, OH, OC₁-C₆ alkyl, NR⁷R⁸ wherein R⁸ may be optionally substituted by NH₂, phenyl or Heterocycle, and OPh wherein Ph may be optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from halo and C₁-C₆ alkyl;
 - iii) pyrazinyl, which is optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, NH₂, SR⁶ and halo;
 - iv) quinolinyl;
 - v) quinoxalinyl, which is optionally substituted by OH;
 - vi) isoxazolyl, which is optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from: C₁-C₆ alkyl; and
 - vii) pyrazole;

R² is selected from:

- a) phenyl, which is optionally substituted by methyl, halo, methoxy, CF₃ or SO₂CH₃,
- b) cyclopropyl or 1- or 2-indanyl,
- c) pyrazolyl, which is optionally substituted by methyl,
- d) C(O)N(CH₃)₂, and
- e) piperidiny substituted by C(O)R⁶.

R³ is selected from:

- a) phenyl, said phenyl being optionally fused to 1,4-dioxan and said phenyl or said fused phenyl being optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo, CN and OC₁-C₆ alkyl;
- b) R⁶,
- c) cyclopropyl, which is optionally substituted by C₁-C₆ alkyl; and
- d) Aromatic Heterocycle, wherein said Aromatic Heterocycle is selected from pyrazolyl or pyridyl, both optionally substituted by C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R⁵ is CONH₂ or CH₃; and

z is 0.

³4. (original) A compound according to any one of claims ¹~~4~~² or ³ wherein R¹ is phenyl, 2- or 3-pyridyl or 2,4-pyrimidinyl, said moieties being optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo, OC₁-C₆ alkyl, CN, SO₂R⁶, NHR₇, NHCH₂CH₂NH₂ and CF₃;

⁴5. (original) A compound according to claim ³~~4~~ wherein R¹ is phenyl, 2- or 3-pyridyl or 2,4-pyrimidinyl, said moieties being optionally substituted by 1-3 groups each independently selected from methyl, fluoro, chloro, methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, CN, SO₂CH₃, NH₂, NHCH₃, NHCH₂CH₂NH₂, and CF₃.

6. (canceled)

⁵
~~7~~ (currently amended) A compound according to claim ⁴~~5~~6 wherein R² is phenyl, *para*-fluorophenyl, *para*-chlorophenyl, *para*-methylphenyl, 2,5-dimethylphenyl, *o*-methylphenyl and *para*-methoxyphenyl.

⁶~~8~~ (previously presented) A compound according to claim ⁵~~7~~ wherein R³ is selected from:

- a) phenyl, said phenyl being optionally fused to 1,4-dioxan and said phenyl or said fused phenyl being optionally substituted by 1-2 groups each independently selected from methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, fluoro, chloro and CN;
- b) isopropyl;
- c) cyclopropyl; and
- d) pyrazolyl and pyridyl, both optionally substituted by methyl.

⁷~~9~~ (original) A compound according to claim ⁶~~8~~ wherein R³ is 3-methoxyphenyl or 1,4-benzodioxanyl.

⁸~~10~~ (previously presented) A compound according to claim ⁷~~9~~ wherein R⁵ is CONH₂.

⁹~~11~~ (currently amended) A compound according to claim ¹~~2~~ selected from:

2-Amino-*N*-[2-amino-1-(2-methylphenyl)-2-oxoethyl]-*N*-(4-chlorobenzyl)nicotinamide,

N-[2-Amino-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl]-4-cyano-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)benzamide,

N-[3-Amino-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropyl]-4-methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)nicotinamide,

2-Amino-*N*-[(1*S*)-3-amino-3-oxo-1-phenylpropyl]-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)nicotinamide,

5-Chloro-2-methylthio-*N*-[2-amino-1-{1,4-benzodioxan-6-yl}-2-oxoethyl]-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)pyrimidine-4-carboxamide,

5-Chloro-2-amino-*N*-[2-amino-1-{1,4-benzodioxan-6-yl}-2-oxoethyl]-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)pyrimidine-4-carboxamide, and

2-Amino-N-[carbamoyl-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-methyl]-4,6-dimethyl-N-(4-methyl-benzyl)-nicotinamide;

and tautomers thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates and polymorphs of said compound or tautomer.

~~12~~⁰ 12. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim ~~4~~², or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates or polymorphs thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

13. (previously canceled)

~~14~~¹ 14. (currently amended) A method of treatment of a disorder or condition where inhibition of Oxytocin is known, or can be shown, to produce a beneficial effect, in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim ~~4~~².

15. (previously canceled)

~~16~~² 16. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~14~~¹ wherein the disorder or condition is selected from sexual dysfunction (including premature ejaculation), preterm labour, complications in labour, appetite and feeding disorders, obesity, benign prostatic hyperplasia, premature birth, dysmenorrhoea, congestive heart failure, arterial hypertension, liver cirrhosis, nephrotic hypertension, ocular hypertension, obsessive compulsive disorder and neuropsychiatric disorders.

~~17~~³ 17. (previously presented) A method according to claim ~~16~~¹², wherein the disorder or condition is premature ejaculation.